

Message Text

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17 11
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-20

STR-08 CEA-02 SR-02 ORM-03 IO-14 DRC-01 /161 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7726
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, JA, BD
SUBJ: RAHMAN VISIT - JAPANESE AID TO BANGLADESH

SUMMARY: DURING VISIT OF PM RAHMAN TO JAPAN, GOJ RENEWED ITS PLEDGE OF YEN 9 BILLION COMMODITY LOAN. TERMS WILL BE GOJ'S SOFTEST YET TO LDC. GOJ ALSO ANNOUNCED \$1 MILLION CONTRIBUTION TO UN FOR REFUGEE REPATRIATION. GOJ AND BDG AGREED TO DISCUSS PROJECT ASSISTANCE, AND GOJ WILL CONSIDER FURTHER FOREIGN RICE ASSISTANCE IN GRANT FORM. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING VISIT OF PM RAHMAN TO JAPAN OCTOBER 18-24, GOJ PUBLICLY PLEDGED TO EXTEND A YEN 9 BILLION (APPROX. \$33.8 MILLION) COMMODITY LOAN TO BANGLADESH ON SOFTEST TERMS EVER ACCORDED IN LDC. FONOFF REPS EXPLAINED TO EMBOFF THAT THIS AMOUNT OF AID HAD BEEN PLEDGED TO BDG AT DECEMBER MEETING IN DACCA ON CONDITION THAT BDG ASSUME EXTERNAL DEBT RESPONSIBILITIES, THAT CONDITION HAS NOW BEEN LIFTED. FONOFF REPS INFORMED EMBOFF ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THAT TERMS WILL BE 1.875 PERCENT WITH THIRTY YEAR REPAYMENT PERIOD INCLUDING TEN YEARS' GRACE. THE TWO
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GOVERNMENTS WILL PROCEED QTE WITHOUT DELAY UNQTE TO CONSUM-

MATE THE LOAN THROUGH AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES AND AGREEMENT ON A QTE COMMODITY SHOPPING LIST UNQTE. GOJ HAS NOT DECIDED WHETHER THE LOAN WILL BE TIED OR UNTIED, BUT FONOFF IS HOPING IT WILL BE UNTIED FOR LDC'S.

2. GOJ ALSO ANNOUNCED DECISION TO CONTRIBUTE \$1 MILLION TO UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES TO ASSIST PAKISTAN-BANGLADESH REPATRIATION EFFORTS. FONOFF HAS NOTIFIED UN OF THIS CONTRIBUTION.

3. THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AGREED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE JAPANESE ASSISTANCE FOR VARIOUS ONGOING PROJECTS IN BANGLADESH. BDG IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE OVER JAMUNA RIVER, FOR WHICH GOJ TEAM IS PRESENTLY CONDUCTING A FEASIBILITY STUDY.

4. RAHMAN THANKED GOJ FOR RICE ASSISTANCE HERETOFORE PROVIDED AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR CONTINUED JAPANESE ASSISTANCE. GOJ, NOTING PRESENT FOOD SITUATION IN BANGLADESH, UNDERTOOK TO CONSIDER SUPPLYING FOREIGN RICE ON GRANT BASIS UNDER FAC, WITH FUNDS FROM JFY 1973 BUDGET. FONOFF REP TOLD EMBOFF THAT ANY SUCH GRANT WOULD DEPEND PRIMARILY ON AVAILABILITY OF FOREIGN RICE.

5. COMMENT: TERMS OF LOAN DESCRIBED PARA 1 AND PROPOSED LOAN FOR NAM NGUM PHASE II (REPORTED SEPT-1973) ARE MOST GENEROUS GRANTED BY GOJ TO DATE.
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